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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/691,980	10/19/2000	Robert A. Davidson	783/76	6540

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SCHWARTZ LAW FIRM, P.C.  
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CHARLOTTE, NC 28210

EXAMINER

SINGH, RACHNA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2176

DATE MAILED: 02/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Applicati n No.

09/691,980

Applicant(s)

DAVIDSON ET AL.

Examiner

Rachna Singh

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 October 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Application filed 10/19/00.
2. Claims 1-40 are pending. Claims 1, 21, 30, and 36 are independent claims.

### *Priority*

3. Applicant's claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) is acknowledged.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-4, 10-13, 16-20, 30, 34-36, 38, and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adler et al., US 6,675,356 B1, Jan. 6, 2004 (filed 12/22/98) in view of Lamb et al., US 6,034,686, Mar. 7, 2000 (filed 3/9/98).

In reference to claims 1, 30 and 36, Adler teaches a document based calendaring system for receiving, analyzing and managing a database of calendar information. Adler teaches that a database serves as a repository of document information where this information may be date and annotation data. The information can be retrieved for creating a document. See column 7, lines 63-67 and column 8, lines 40-61. Compare to ***"shipment data repository containing shipment and scheduling information; a system interface communicating with said shipment data repository"***. Adler teaches presenting this information in a calendar format; however, he does not teach a data link associated with the information on a calendar

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display that is associated with the event date. Lamb teaches a calendaring program or an electronic "date book" in which appointments are scheduled. See abstract and figure

1. Lamb's system consists of links or buttons to provide more information about an appointment. See column 4 and figure 1. Upon clicking on these buttons, more information about the appointment is made available to the user. See figure 1 and columns 4-5. Compare to ***"interactive shipment data link electronically associated with the shipment and schedule information, and cooperating with said system interface as commanded by the user to access and retrieve associated shipment and scheduling information contained in said shipment data repository; a calendar display interface for displaying said shipment planner to the user in a calendar format, such that said interactive shipment data link is provided on the shipment event date associated with the shipment and scheduling information"***.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Lamb's associated data link with the schedule and shipment information as it provides more details about the scheduled appointment. Furthermore, it allows the user to view information about a specific appointment without taking up screen space.

See column 1, lines 1-42 of Lamb.

Both Adler and Lamb teach displaying a calendar system for scheduled appointments; however, neither explicitly state "shipment" information. Although, they do not state the system for shipment, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement the system for a shipment-type scheduling as they are not limited in any specific area and are not structurally different

from the claimed invention in that it could perform the intended use for shipment planning.

In reference to claim 2, Adler teaches that information concerning schedule information can be retrieved from a database. See column 7, lines 63-67 and column 8, lines 40-61.

In reference to claim 3, Adler teaches displaying the system interface within a web page. See column 13, lines 20-28.

In reference to claim 4, Adler does not teach the link comprising a predetermined portion of the information; however, Lamb teaches that clicking on certain buttons such as “details” or “new” will lead the user to a predetermined portion of the information. See column 4. It would have been obvious to have a link lead to a specific portion of the information as that is what links are generally utilized for.

In reference to claims 10-11 and 38, Adler does not teach customizing the format of the calendar display interface; however, Lamb does. Lamb teaches that a user may set the format to display a single day, a week, or a year. Lamb's system includes the appointment list data structure as well as a database. See column 3 and column 4, lines 1-22. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a display customization, as a user may prefer different options such as a month layout to see an overview of a day layout to see information just for a day.

In reference to claims 12 and 13, Lamb teaches using a mouse to select the data link that provides information about the schedule. See figure 1. It would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize an input device as it is well known in the art to make a selection using an input device such as a keyboard or mouse.

In reference to claims 16-18, 34-35, and 40, Adler does not teach the personal event information interface; however, Lamb does. Lamb teaches scheduling appointments. These appointments are not limited to any specific category thus could be for "personal event data". As discussed above, Lamb teaches a calendaring program or an electronic "date book" in which appointments are scheduled. See abstract and figure 1. Lamb's system consists of links or buttons to provide more information about an appointment. See column 4 and figure 1. Upon clicking on these buttons, more information about the appointment is made available to the user. See figure 1 and columns 4-5. It would have been obvious to include personal appointment information in the shipment planer as it extends the use from not only shipment information but personal use as well.

In reference to claims 19 and 20, Adler does not teach the link comprising a predetermined portion of the information; however, Lamb teaches that clicking on certain buttons such as "details" or "new" will lead the user to a predetermined portion of the information. See column 4. It would have been obvious to have a link lead to a specific portion of the information, as that is what links are generally utilized for. While neither Lamb nor Adler teach that the link comprises the title of the information, it is not unlikely for a link to indicate a title or heading about what the link contains.

6. Claims 5-9, 14-15, 21-29, 31-33, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adler et al., US 6,675,356 B1, Jan. 6, 2004 (filed 12/22/98) in

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view of Lamb et al., US 6,034,686, Mar. 7, 2000 (filed 3/9/98), as applied to claims 1 and 36 above, and further in view of Martin et al., US 6,292,784 B1, Sep. 18, 2001 (filed 12/23/99).

In reference to claims 5 and 6, neither Adler nor Lamb teach having a shipment reference code selected from a group of bill of lading number and a purchase order number; however, Martin's delivery, tracking, and reporting system does. He teaches that for every shipment there is a customer order entry including a delivery date. It would have been obvious to provide a order number since it allows for an easy tracking method and is well known in the art of "shipping".

In reference to claims 7-9, 31-33 and 37, neither Adler nor Lamb teach associating links to inbound/outbound/third-party shipments or color coding them to distinguish them apart; however, Martin teaches having flags for ship dates and dock dates. See column 3, lines 5-20. Martin teaches that flags are used to distinguish ship dates (outbound) from dock dates (inbound). It would have been obvious to implement Martin's system to the system of Adler/Lamb to help identify which shipments are outbound and inbound in order to help the user distinguish the two. While Martin does not use color-codes, he does utilize an equally effective method of distinction (flags). See column 3.

In reference to claims 14-15 and 39, neither Adler nor Lamb teach a report data repository for displaying information in a customized report; however, Martin teaches a system for generating and delivering reports to a customer in which the report is formatted according to a customer's preferences database. See column 5, lines 1-40.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate Martin's report data to the system of Adler/Lamb since it summarizes certain information concerning shipments. Such reports aid in helping the user measure his performance concerning deliver times and other variables. See column 5, lines 40-67.

In reference to claims 21 and 22, Adler teaches a document based calendaring system for receiving, analyzing and managing a database of calendar information. Adler teaches that a database serves as a repository of document information where this information may be date and annotation data. The information can be retrieved for creating a document. See column 7, lines 63-67 and column 8, lines 40-61. Compare to ***"shipment data repository containing shipment and scheduling information; a system interface communicating with said shipment data repository"***. Adler teaches presenting this information in a calendar format; however, he does not teach a data link associated with the information on a calendar display that is associated with the event date. Lamb teaches a calendaring program or an electronic "date book" in which appointments are scheduled. See abstract and figure 1. Lamb's system consists of links or buttons to provide more information about an appointment. See column 4 and figure 1. Upon clicking on these buttons, more information about the appointment is made available to the user. See figure 1 and columns 4-5. Compare to ***"interactive shipment data link electronically associated with the shipment and schedule information, and cooperating with said system interface as commanded by the user to access and retrieve associated shipment and scheduling information"***



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***contained in said shipment data repository; a calendar display interface for displaying said shipment planner to the user in a calendar format, such that said interactive shipment data link is provided on the shipment event date associated with the shipment and scheduling information***". It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Lamb's associated data link with the schedule and shipment information as it provides more details about the scheduled appointment. Furthermore, it allows the user to view information about a specific appointment without taking up screen space. See column 1, lines 1-42 of Lamb.

Both Adler and Lamb teach displaying a calendar system for scheduled appointments; however, neither explicitly state "shipment" information. Although, they do not state the system for shipment, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement the system for a shipment-type scheduling as they are not limited in any specific area and are not structurally different from the claimed invention in that it could perform the intended use for shipment planning.

Adler does not teach the personal event information interface; however, Lamb does. Lamb teaches scheduling appointments. These appointments are not limited to any specific category thus could be for "personal event data". As discussed above, Lamb teaches a calendaring program or an electronic "date book" in which appointments are scheduled. See abstract and figure 1. Lamb's system consists of links or buttons to provide more information about an appointment. See column 4 and

figure 1. Upon clicking on these buttons, more information about the appointment is made available to the user. See figure 1 and columns 4-5. It would have been obvious to include personal appointment information in the shipment planer as it extends the use from not only shipment information but personal use as well.

Neither Adler nor Lamb teach color-coding shipment links and personal links to distinguish them apart; however, Martin teaches having flags for ship dates and dock dates. See column 3, lines 5-20. Martin teaches that flags are used to distinguish ship dates (outbound) from dock dates (inbound). It would have been obvious to implement Martin's system to the system of Adler/Lamb to help identify different types of shipments along with distinguishing "personal" versus "shipment" information as flags are an equally efficient way of distinguishing different types of data just as color-codes are.

In reference to claims 23 and 24, neither Adler nor Lamb teach having a shipment reference code selected from a group of bill of lading number and a purchase order number; however, Martin's delivery, tracking, and reporting system does. He teaches that for every shipment there is a customer order entry including a delivery date. It would have been obvious to provide a order number since it allows for an easy tracking method and is well known in the art of "shipping".

In reference to claims 25-26, Adler does not teach the link comprising a predetermined portion of the information; however, Lamb teaches that clicking on certain buttons such as "details" or "new" will lead the user to a predetermined portion of the information. See column 4. It would have been obvious to have a link lead to a specific portion of the information, as that is what links are generally utilized for. While

neither Lamb or Adler teach that the link comprises the title of the information, it is not unlikely for a link to indicate a title or heading about what the link contains.

In reference to claim 27, Adler does not teach customizing the format of the calendar display interface; however, Lamb does. Lamb teaches that a user may set the format to display a single day, a week, or a year. Lamb's system includes the appointment list data structure as well as a database. See column 3 and column 4, lines 1-22. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a display customization, as a user may prefer different options such as a month layout to see an overview of a day layout to see information just for a day.

In reference to claims 28-29, neither Adler nor Lamb teach a report data repository for displaying information in a customized report; however, Martin teaches a system for generating and delivering reports to a customer in which the report is formatted according to a customer's preferences database. See column 5, lines 1-40. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate Martin's report data to the system of Adler/Lamb since it summarizes certain information concerning shipments. Such reports aid in helping the user measure his performance concerning deliver times and other variables. See column 5, lines 40-67.

### ***Conclusion***

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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Cummings, Jr. et al.            US 6,345,260 B1

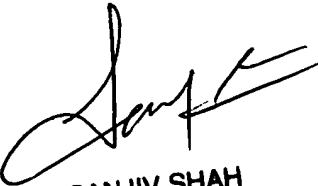
Martin et al.                    US 6,292,784 B1

8.     Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rachna Singh whose telephone number is 703.305.1952. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-5).

      If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on 703.305.9792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703.872.9306.

      Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703.305.3900.

RS  
1/22/04

  
SANJIV SHAH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER